S.C. (Preliminary)
Men School Committee
Women Minutes
6.12.1780-7.12.1782
YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

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S.C. (Preliminary)

Men School Committee

Women Minutes

6.12.1780 – 7.12.1782

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

At a Yearly Meeting held at Newport for New England from the 9th to the 12th of the 6th Mo. inclusive 1780 — — —

The subject of schools being considered in this Meeting, and the accounts from the several Quarters upon that Subject being read it appears, that the recommendations of last Yearly Meeting, have met the solid attention of the Quarterly Meetings, and that some progress hath been made towards Establishing Schools for the education of our youth accordingly; but as the want of suitable Teachers seems to obstruct the progress of Friends in that respect; This Meeting feeling a concern to remove (as much as present circumstances will admit of) every obstacle that may prevent so necessary a work, do therefore appoint our Friends Thomas Ricks, Jonathan Dame, Benjamin Buffington, Elijah Jenkins, Samuel Smith, Eber Davis, William Rotch, Samuel Wing, Thomas Hazard, David Shepherd, Moses Brown, Thomas Robinson, Samuel Collins, Joshua Deval, Jabez Wing, & William Winslow, to take the matter under solid Consideration, and to report to a future setting of this Meeting

what appears best to be done further in that respect.—
12th day the Committee appointed report as follows,

To the Yearly Meeting present

We the Committee appointed to consider of a Plan, for the erecting of a school or schools, for the education of our Children and Youth, in order to qualify, not only a Sufficient Number for Instructors & School Masters, but that the poor Children, and others of the Society, may receive the Necessary learning, to qualify them for business; having considered with attention, and solidly conferred upon the subject, do propose; the recommending down to the several Quarterly, and Monthly Meetings, the promoting Free Liberal, & Voluntary subscriptions, donations, Bequests & devices, adequate to the design and Importance of the Subject, as a fund to remain forever; the Interest or Income of which, to be applyed to the support of Education; that there be a standing Committee, appointed by this Yearly Meeting, to whom or some of them Deeds and conveyances of real Estates may be made, as Trustees for the Yearly Meeting for New England; and to be authorised to recieve all Donations, Collections, and Subscriptions, and to take care of Devices which may be from time to time for the purposes aforesaid; and to appropriate the same, and to be in all cases subject to the direction of the Yearly Meeting; and that said

Committee

Committee as soon as it may be enabled, open a school
in such place as they may judge most convenient
within the Limits of this Yearly Meeting; and as
the fund shall or may be Increased, to Increase
the Number of Schools if Necessary, in the most
convenient Places within the limits aforesaid;
and have the right of procuring and appreciating of all
Masters and Instructors of such schools, and also to
Establish general rules and Orders, both for the obser-
vation of the Instructors and Pupils, directing the
Books that shall or may be read, and the branches of
Learning to be inculcated, Consistant with truth and
the good Order of Society; and to take the Necessary care,
that they are faithfully attended unto, &— The said
committee to be Subject from time to time to the advise-
ment and direction of this Meeting, and to be Annually
Reappointed, if thought best or Removed as Occasion may
require: And that the said fund is to be considered as
perpetual estate, limitted and confined to the purpo-
ses of Education, Irrevocably; but that the direction,
and and application thereof be in the yearly Meeting
or their Committee, who are to have Liberty to receive
into the said School or Schools Orderly Youth not of
our Society, they complying with the Rules and Regu-
lations of the School when ever the Committee may,
after due Consideration of all circumstances
think

think it useful and best. — And we appears a care
is reviving in most Monthly Meetings for the due Edu-
cation of the rising Generation; It is the desire of this
Committee that such care be extended and Increased, and
that the example of this Meeting opperate as an encou-
ragement to each particular Meeting to attend to
so important and necessary a concern. —

And in order to the Speedy Establishment of this
Necessary Institution, We recommend a Subscription in
Freedom to be promoted in all the Meetings, to be forthwith ap-
plied for the purposes aforesaid, and that it become the
care of Friends, in future to promote annually Subscr-
iptions, to be applyed to the use of the school; untill the
Income of the Fund shall be sufficient, and so make
annual subscriptions unnecessary. —

The same being several times read and weighty
considered, this Meeting approves of the same, and com-
mits the care and management thereof to the
Meeting for sufferings, any of whom are impowered to
receive Donations to be conveyed to the meeting for
their disposal, and that any three or more to be by
them named, be Feoffees in Toust for the Yearly Mee-
ting to receive deeds and Conveyances of any real
Estate, — A Copy Extracted by Thos. Lapham Clerk

And in the Epistle to London was the following
Paragraph on this Subject

The subject of the Virtuous Education of our Children & Youth
under the care of solid Friends hath met the general atten-
tion

Attention of this Meeting, and we have Recommended
down to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings,
to promote Schools therein accordingly; and as the great
declention from our dicipline in this matter hath occa-
sioned much dificully in procuring suitable Teachers,
We have also Recommended a Subscription to raise a
perpetual fund, out of the Interest or Income of which
a Suitable School may be kept up for the Qualifying
of our Youth, of the Poor in Society for that useful end
Necessary Service, which we hope may meet the appro
bation and Benevolence of the charitably disposed in
Society, that thereby an useful and Necessary Institu-
tion may be come in time Established

At a Meeting for Sufferings
held at Smithfield the 12th of the 7th Mo. 1780
Present Thomas Steere, Thomas Hazard, Joshua
Deval, Jacob Mott, Isaac Lawton, Thomas Al-
drich, Thomas Wilber, Samuel Smith, Thomas
Lapham, David Buffum, Elisha Thornton,
Thomas Arnold, Benjamin Buffington, John
Chase, Moses Brown.

The doings of the Yearly Meeting respecting schools
being laid before this Meeting and it appearing that
the care & management thereof is committed to
this Meeting, the same is directed to be recorded

in a Book, the Clerk is desired to procure for the purpose of the school Records, and that from time to time, the minutes & doings of this Meeting Respecting that Institution, be Recorded therein, as also the Names of the Subscribers with the sums Subscribed, together with the amount of all donations, Bequests, & devises, and other matters, from time to time as occasion may require. —— Distinguishing or Separately recording the Donations of each Monthly Meeting. ——

And the following form of a Subscription was agreed to viz~ Whereas the Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Newport, on Rhode Island, for New England, from the 9th to the 12th of the 6th Mo. 1780, took into their Solid Consideration, the usefulness and Necessity of erecting a school or Schools within the limits of the same, for the virtuous Education of our Children and Youth, (with such others as may be thought best to be admitted) in order to qualify, from time to time, a sufficient Number of Instructors, as teachers of schools, and particularly that poor Children, as well as others, may receive the Necessary Learning, to qualify them for that, or other Business; and recommended to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings the promoting free, liberal and voluntary subscriptions, Donations, bequests, and devices, as a fund to remain forever, the Interest and Income of which to be applyed to the support of Education; and also concluded to recommend annually Subscriptions, for the more immediate erecting and support of a School till the fund

found be sufficient for that purpose: And they having appointed the Meeting for Sufferings to receive and appropriate the same for the opening a school for said purpose, as soon as they shall be enabled, we the Subscribers, being willing and desirous to promote so useful and necessary an Institution, do, each one for himself, promise to give, and engage to pay, unto Moses Brown Treasurer of the said School, or his successor, or Order, the several Sums affixed to our Names Respectively, to be applyed for the purpose aforesaid, in such manner as the said Meeting for Sufferings, or their Successors, to be appointed by the said Yearly Meeting to have the care of the said School, shall think most conducive to Answer the ends of the Institution.

And Thomas Arnold is appointed to procure 200 Copies Printed, and to send not exceeding 10 to each Monthly Meeting, as soon as may be, the remainder to be Lodg'd amongst the School papers.

And Moses Brown is appointed Treasurer

At a Meeting for Sufferings held at Providence the 11th d 9th Mo. 1780

Present Thomas Peirce Joshua Doval Thomas Hazard, Thomas Aldrich, Isaac Lawton, Thomas Lapham, Benjamin Buffington, John Chase Elisha Thornton, Moses Brown, Isaac Comstock, Thomas Arnold. The following Letter was

concluded on

Concluded on to be sent to the several Monthly Meetings
viz. This Meeting having taken under their consid-
eration the promotion of a School or Schools agree-
able to the recommendation of the last Yearly Meeting
and having agreed upon a form for a Subscription
and got the same printed, we herewith send you Ten
Copies and recommend your Appointing one or more suit
able person, who may be engaged to further the concern
and Recommendation of that Meeting in this Important
matter, to procure - - - - Subscriptions either at
the several Monthly or preparative Meetings, by per-
sonal Applications as may appear best: And as the pa-
per Currency is so uncertain it is proposed, that the
Subscriptions be in hard Money, yet as it is a matter
of freedom and Benevolence Other Subscriptions will
be acceptable.

Our Friends Jacob Mott, Thomas Hazard,
Thomas Arnold, Thomas Lapham, Jeremiah Hacker,
Josiah Southwick, & John Baily. are appointed
by this Meeting to be Feoffees in trust for the Yearly
Meeting, to receive Deeds and conveyances of any real
Estate for the use of the School or Schools; any three
of which and their Successors in the said office are
to be Named in such Conveyances as Friends may be
disposed to make. The Subscriptions to the fund
is proposed to be paid in Six months after Sub-
scribed, or in case the Subscribers Incline to have
the same Longer in their hands, they pay the Interest

interest from that time: — These Subscriptions which are for the Immediate Erecting of the School, Friends are desired to forward as Soon as Convenient

Signed in behalf and by Direction of the said Meeting

by Moses Brown Clerk

At a Meeting For Suffering Held at Smithfield the 6th of the 6th Month 1781

Present 19 Members this Meeting. Notwithstanding there are Manifested in their Epistle to the Several Monthly Meetings in the 9th Mo. Last on the Subject of the Yearly Meetings School, not having received either Money or Subscriptions from any of them, Tho come have informed us of their appointing Committees for the Service, and by verbal information we understand a few Meetings have made Subscriptions, Wherefore being desirous of promoting so useful a Concern as that Manifested by the Yearly Meeting, the Clerk is directed to lay our proceedings on this Subject before them, with this Minute for their Information, and the furtherance of their Concern.

At a Meeting for Sufferings held by Adjournment at Smithfield the 12th of the 7th Mo. 1782. —

The Subject of the Yearly Meetings School being opened in this Meeting — Thomas Hazard, Sam[l] Smith, Moses Brown & David Buffum,

Are appointed to prepare an Essay of a draft to be sent down to each Monthly Meeting or the Members thereof expressive of the design and intentions of this Meeting in

in carrying into Execution the Yearly Meetings concern on
the Subject as expressed in their Minute, when we shall
be enabled, and to endeavour to excite in the minds of our
Brethren proper Sentiments of the propriety & useful-
ness of such an Institution to the end that all objec-
tions & difficulties be removed, as far as may be, that
the minds of Friends may be left open & free to pro-
mote so benevolent a design toward the poor and those
of small circumstances as to the things of this life.